

REMARKS**35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,260,039 in view of Perkowski (5,918,214) and claims 6-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schneck et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,260,039 in view of Call, U.S. Pat. No. 6,154,738.

Claims 1-5

The examiner proposed that it would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to implement the claimed invention because Schneck teaches the substantial features of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees and sets forth the following reason:

With respect to claim 1, Schneck fails to teach, describe, or suggest the following limitations:

“a directory of identifiers to a plurality of network services;”

and

“an engine for receiving requests and using said identifiers to direct said requests to access said network services when requested”

In regard to the first limitation, the Examiner stated that Schneck teaches “a method/system comprising storing identifiers of a plurality of services.” Applicant respectfully

disagrees. The references cited only show a method and system of mapping a DAP directory listing of names and organizational information to a web interface.

An important distinction needs to be made here about the content of the directory. While both the claimed invention and Schneck's invention have data in their respective directories, the data stored in Schneck's directory are contact information and organizational information and do not identify any service external to the directory. All incoming requests receive responses composed of information from Schneck's directory. In contrast, the data in the claimed invention's directory are identifiers. As stated in the second limitation, the engine uses the identifiers to direct requests to access network services. The identifiers in the directory are not the responses for the incoming requests. Rather, the identifiers point to services that the requests will access, and it is the responsibility of the network services to return responses. There is no such equivalent usage of the directory data in Schneck. Applicant thus asserts that Schneck fails to teach substantial limitations of the claimed invention.

The Examiner cited that Perkowski teaches using a plurality of directories to access services. Applicant asserts that the "services" mentioned in Perkowski are not network services, but rather they are physical services (i.e. delivered and performed by humans) (col. 8 line 46 – col. 9 line 13). There is no mention of accessing network services, as performed by computer server/network apparatus. Furthermore, the claimed invention has "a plurality of drivers for interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said engine." Thus unlike the claimed invention, Perkowski has no network services and there is no interactivity between its directory system and the services. Rather the directory helps users locate physical products and services they can purchase. The term "service" in Perkowski is directed at an entirely different

field of endeavor and cannot be read to include the type of network services described in the claimed invention. Thus Perkowski does not teach the elements of using directory to access and interface with network services in the claimed invention. Applicant thus contends that the combination of Perkowski and Schneck does not teach the claimed invention. Furthermore there is no suggestion in the references to modify them to make the claimed invention. Applicant asserts that the 103(a) rejection on claim 1 has been overcome.

As claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 or another claim that depends on claim 1, these claims are in a condition for allowance as well. Their rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. 103(a) has been overcome.

Claims 6-10

The examiner proposed that it would have been obvious to combine Schneck and Call to make the claimed invention. With respect to claim 6-10, Call does not teach the limitations of claim 1 that Schneck and Perkowski fail to teach. Call does not teach or suggest any of the limitations from claim 1. Specifically, there is no mention of a directory in Call. Thus, even in combination with Call, the prior art does not teach all the limitations of claim 1. As claims 6-10 all depend on claim 1, Applicant asserts that their rejection based on 103(a) is overcome.

Claims 11-20

Claim 11 overcomes the 103(a) rejection for the same reason as claim 1. As claims 12-20 depend on claim 11, Applicant submits that they are in a condition of allowance as well.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and objected to the drawings. In response, Applicant has amended claims 1-9 and 11-19 and responded to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection on claims 1-20. Applicant asserts that the present application is in a condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

COUDERT BROTHERS LLP

By: _____
J.D. Harriman II
Reg. No. 31,967

COUDERT BROTHERS LLP
333 South Hope Street
Suite 2300
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 229-2900

Application No. 09/329,606

PATENT

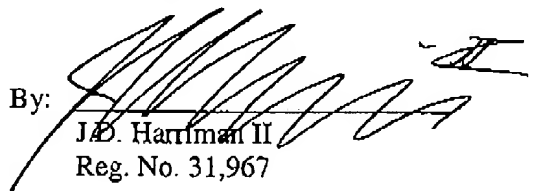
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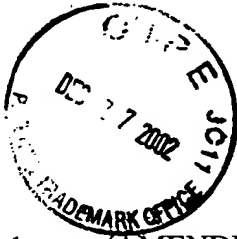
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COUDERT BROTHERS LLP

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COUDERT BROTHERS LLP
333 South Hope Street
Suite 2300
Los Angeles, California 90071
(213) 229-2900

**MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS****Per 37 CFR 1.121(c)(1)(ii)**

1. (AMENDED) A system comprising:

5 a directory of identifiers to a plurality of network services;

an engine for receiving requests and using said identifiers to direct said requests to access said network services when requested;

a plurality of drivers for interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said engine; and

10 a plurality of service providers accessible to said plurality of drivers for providing network services identified in said directory.

2. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said plurality of network services in said directory.

15 3. (AMENDED) The system of claim 2 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a network service's input and output interfaces.

4. (AMENDED) The system of claim 3 wherein said metadata further includes
20 configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

5. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

6. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said network services are XML based network services.

7. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said a network service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information and providing a response.

8. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs requests to the appropriate network services via said network service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

9. (AMENDED) The system of claim 1 wherein said requests [comprises] comprise HTTP requests.

11. (AMENDED) A method for accessing network services comprising:
storing identifiers of a plurality of network services in a directory;
providing requests to an engine wherein said engine use said identifiers to direct said requests to access said plurality of network services when requested; and
interfacing with said plurality of network services and with said engine via a plurality of drivers based on said requests.

12. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said directory includes metadata for each of said plurality of network services in said directory.

13. (AMENDED) The method of claim 12 wherein said metadata defines a schema of a network service's input and output interfaces.

14. (AMENDED) The method of claim 13 wherein said metadata further includes configuration parameters for configuring a driver associated with said network service.

15. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are accessible via an API.

16. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said network services are XML based network services.

17. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said a network service provider comprises an entity that is capable of receiving some information a providing a response.

18. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said engine interprets said requests and determines what network services are needed, directs request to the appropriate network services via said network service drivers, and builds responses into replies.

19. (AMENDED) The method of claim 11 wherein said requests [comprises] comprise HTTP requests.